

**LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 24, 2015 6 PM MIDDLETOWN CITY HALL**

**SUBMITTED BY CAMERON CHAMPLIN REPRESENTING PLUMBERS
and PIPE FITTERS LOCAL UNION 777**

This testimony on behalf of the 3600 members of Local 777 strongly opposes the attempt to change the current unemployment laws. This applies to SB-183, 434, 436, 437, 442, 447, and HB-5366, 5513, 5608, 5610, 5611, 5612, 5614, 5850, 5851, 5857, 5861, 5864, 5867, 5869, 5872, 5873, 5874, 6244, 6565.

The current criteria for unemployment benefits have been in affect since 1993. At that time the Business Community needed a change to help them to be more competitive in the workplace. At that time they said they neede a 12% reduction in overall costs. The Labor Community responded and through negotiations a deal was struck. When all the changes were implemented a real savings of 17% was realized. In the next Legislative Session Labor asked to have the extra 5% be reinstituted into the unemployment benefits. The Business Community refused to discuss that option. Therefore they have enjoyed that extra 5% as profit ever since.

The workers that are forced to use this fund would rather be working but through no fault of their own are unemployed for a period of time. Most of them do live from paycheck to paycheck. The hardship on these families would be more burdensome if they had a waiting period or reduced benefits. Some workers have multiple employers throught the year and a one week waiting period would mean much more than just one week without income.

**PLEASE REJECT THESE BILLS TO FURTHER IMPACT WORKERS THAT NEED INCOME
ESPECIALLY DURING THE TIMES WHEN STEADY EMPLOYMENT IS SO DIFFICULT
TO OBTAIN.**

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY ON THIS VERY

IMPORTANT ISSUE. IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT ME MY EMAIL IS camc@att.net OR
CELL (860) 287-0020